

Horse Show Prep I

Little Hooves 4-H Club

1- 3 months before event

1. Make sure all paperwork is submitted and all veterinary work is done on time. This would include animal leases for 4-H animals, Verification Forms submitted to the 4-H Office, Coggins test on horses, Rabies and other vaccinations.
2. Diet and exercise should not need much adjustment at this time, except perhaps to increase the time worked each day.
3. Neck sweats should be used if needed.
4. Any white tails on mares should be braided and bagged (in a tail bag or sock) to keep them clean.
5. Select classes to be entered and work on any specific training needed (showmanship, trail, jumping for the 4-H Fair). Practice as often as you can. Practice in new areas if you can and simulate the horse show as much as possible (noise, crowds, etc.). Practice using the show halter and lead.
6. Decide on what you will wear and either make sure everything fits (!!) or shop for or borrow what you need. Check the rules carefully to make sure you and your horse have everything you need for all your classes. Rules for the Equine Show at the 2012 Hartford County 4-H Fair specify no sneakers, and suggested dress is black pants and a white shirt (should be long sleeves), or suitable riding attire.
7. Be sure the **horse** has his or her own "wardrobe" that fits properly. In addition to neck sweats and a tail bag, each mini needs a lightweight body sheet, a "sleazy" (lycra) neck and head cover, and a liner or blanket in case it gets cold after they are clipped. A polyester "robe" for after bath wear can also serve as a lining for extra warmth.
8. Practice trailer loading and if there is any difficulty, work on this!! Feeding meals on the trailer will often help. Ditto for practice bathing, clipping, spraying, tying, standing quietly, and anything to be expected before or at the show.
9. For those showing at the 4-H Fair, your Record Book must be up to date and entered!

4-H Program will cover trailering basics and horse wardrobe (how to measure)

Trailer set up (dividers), bedding (shavings), lead ropes for cross-tying, safe loading and unloading, no hay nets, ventilation, etc.

Measure blanket size from center of chest, along horse's side, to center of tail. Measure for halters across nose (where halter will go) and from below cheek over poll to other side.